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The Advisor

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A York County Newsletter for Professional Horticulturists
And Workers in the Green Industry

2006 Calendar of Events

- Sep 8 **11th Annual Waynesboro Plant Health Care for Urban Trees Workshop**, Virginia Urban Forest Council, Waynesboro, VA. www.treesvirginia.org
- Sep 15-16 **Great Gardeners—Great Plants. Biennial Symposium by Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants.** Monticello. (434) 984-9822. Charlottesville, VA. www.monticello.org/chp/plant_symposium.html.
- Sep 20-22 **Fashion in Bloom** (formerly called Eastern Performance Trials) six locations. www.fashioninbloom.com
- Sep 22-24 **JC Raulston Arboretum 20th Anniversary Symposium**, NCSU, Raleigh, NC. www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum
- Sep 23-24 **Green Profit's Retail Experience 2006**, Indianapolis, IN. www.ballpublishing.com/conferences/retail/
- Sep 24-27 **2006 Perennial Production Conference**, Indianapolis, IN. www.ballpublishing.com/conferences/perennial/
- Sep 26-27 **Virginia Turfgrass Field Day at Virginia Tech**, Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, VA. <http://vaturf.org/calendar.php?do=event&id=68&VESESSID=d59221164fb16d92bd6e0274c4bada9b>
- Sep 28-30 **FNATS** (Florida Nursery & Allied Trades Show) Orlando, Florida. www.fnla.org/fnats/general.asp
- Sep 28-30 **OFA's 5th Annual AMERICA IN BLOOM, Symposium and Awards Program**, Eureka Springs, AR. www.ofanet.org/pdf/AIB/06aibymposiumbrochure.pdf
- Sep 30-Oct 1 **31st Annual Virginia Wine Fest**, Leesburg, VA. www.virginiawinefestival.org/
- Oct 2 **Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center's Landscape and Urban Forestry Field Day**, Virginia Beach, VA. www.vaes.org.vt.edu/HRAREC/2006MACISA.pdf
- Oct 2-4 **MAC-ISA Annual Meeting**, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact 703-753-0499 (See page 3)
- Oct 6-7 **Middle Tennessee Nursery Association (MTNA) Trade Show**, McMinnville, TN. www.mtna.com/tsmenu.htm
- Oct 6-10 **ASLA Annual Meeting & Expo & 43rd IFLA World Congress**, Minneapolis, MN. www.asla.org
- Oct 19-22 **225th Anniversary: Victory at Yorktown**, a Jamestown 2007 Signature Event, Yorktown, VA. www.jamestown2007.org/se-yorktown225.cfm
- Nov 2-4 **17th Annual Green Industry Expo**, Columbus, OH. www.gieonline.com/home
- Nov 3 **Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council Fall Conference - "Turning a New Leaf"** - Sustainable Landscaping, Bethesda, MD. www.chesapeakelandscaping.org/2006leaf.htm
- Nov 8-11 **Tree Care Industry (TCI) Expo 2006**, Baltimore, MD. www.treecareindustry.org/public/meetings_tci_expo.htm
- Nov 13-16 **Garden Centers of America Holiday Tour 2006**, Chicago, IL. 1-888-648-6463 www.gardencentersofamerica.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=12
- Nov 17-19 **Independent Plant Breeder's Conference**, Orlando, FL. www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/IPBC/index.html
- Dec 4-6 **Washington State Horticultural Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show**, Yakima, WA. www.wahort.org/annual-mtg.html
- Jan 25-27 2007 **IPM Essen - 2007 International Trade Fair for Plants**, Essen, Germany. <http://ipm.messe-essen.de/index.php?lang=en>

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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DOLLARS & SENSE**2007 ALL-AMERICAN ROSE SELECTIONS**

The Jul/Aug issue of *The Advisor* provided information about AARS out-standing new award-winning roses for 2007 -- **Rainbow**

Knock Out®, **Moondance™** and **Strike It Rich™**.

AARS is conducting a comprehensive PR and marketing campaign. Their newly redesigned website (www.rose.org) now includes a "Where to Buy" section to help consumers locate their nearest garden retailer and gives garden centers a simple way to advertise that they carry AARS Winners. Garden centers and publications wanting to link AARS to their Web site, or vice versa, can do so by calling AARS at 415-249-6776.

In 2007, AARS will roll out a retailer-merchandising program that includes point-of-purchase signage. This program will target select independent garden centers and retailers for whom AARS will create customized, co-branded signage featuring the 2007 Winners and the store's logo. The signs will be delivered in sync with the 2007 rose buying season. Retailers wishing to receive more information about the POP materials and to find out how to become a select retailer can call the AARS at 415-249-6776. www.rose.org/site/epage/13587_429.htm

READY FOR FALL LAWN WORK?

This hot, dry summer has been tough on cool season turfgrasses. Many businesses and homeowners will be renovating or planting new lawns, and fall is the best time-of-year to do this for cool season grasses such as tall fescue (warm season grasses such as bermuda and zoysia are best started in the spring or early summer). Virginia Tech and the Virginia Cooperative Extension have research based, unbiased advice on how best to establish and maintain turfgrass lawns. Pickup a copy of the *Lawn Care, Guidelines for a Healthy Cool Season Lawn* that was compiled for the Peninsula fescue turfs at the York County VCE office off Goodwin Neck Road or view/download from the York County website at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/progareas/hort/pubs/06_lawn_care_guide.pdf. For additional information, go to the VA



Tech Turf site (www.vtturf.com or click on logo at left). Be sure to check the publications (particularly the Extension Pubs) and browse TurfClippings, Links, PodCasts & more. For 2006-2007 Turfgrass Variety Recommendations go to www.cses.vt.edu/html/Turf/turf/publications/publications_page.html

TOWERS FOR SALE

Virginia Department of Forestry will auction surplus fire towers on Sep 27. Email [Fire Towers](mailto:FireTowers@ron.jenkins@dof.virginia.gov) (ron.jenkins@dof.virginia.gov) to inquire about purchasing. www.dof.virginia.gov/genserv/surplus.shtml You may want to check with your local government about any permits and zoning considerations before purchasing.

GREENHOUSE ENERGY CONCERNS THIS WINTER?

It is a little late to make major changes in your greenhouse operation for this winter, but you can try to save energy to cut costs. You may be able to cut your energy usage by 1 to 5% this winter by checking maintenance and making changes now. David S. Ross, Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer, University of Maryland, offers the following advice and tips to save energy to cut greenhouse operational costs:

"Have you cleaned your heating system and had all the components checked? Professional service may be called for, but be sure the service person is in contact with your manufacturer for the correct information and specs. Unit heaters should be checked for rusted out heat exchangers. Check the exhaust flues for blockage and for height to get a good draft. Check motors and fans for dirt and for the need of lubrication. Check exhaust fan housings and shutters/louvers for ease of tight closing. Cover and seal up fans that will not be needed for several months so that cold air does not infiltrate or warm air escape. Make sure doors close tightly. Do you have a small fan and louver for those winter days when warm moist air should be ventilated and cool dry air brought in? This helps to avoid excess cooling of the inside air and helps to dry out wet houses to reduce disease damage. Are your horizontal-air-flow (HAF) fans lubricated, blades and housings clean, and fans correctly aimed down the house? HAF fans help to maintain uniform temperatures and dry conditions. Do you have air-aspirated temperature sensors or thermostats with +/- 1-2 degree accuracy? Are these placed properly so greenhouse air that is moving over the plant foliage is sensed? Are they shaded from the sun? You want precise temperature control. Make yourself a checklist for your operation and prepare your heating and ventilation equipment for winter. Tighten up your houses against air leakage." And he adds: "Good luck!" www.agnr.umd.edu/ipmnet/05Oct28G.pdf

To save further, he reports that one operator sprayed all of his greenhouse end walls with foam then coated this with white paint. On the north wall, he had the wall coated up to the roof. On the south, east, and west walls he only had the lower 4 ft from the ground treated so that light still penetrated through the surfaces. The foam closed up most of the air leaks in the greenhouse sidewalls. The cost was \$1.75/ sq ft of treated area (2005 costs). Take a look at these photos of the treated walls.



www.agnr.umd.edu/ipmnet/05Nov04G.pdf

E.Y.I**HRAREC SPECIAL URBAN FORESTRY/LANDSCAPE FIELD DAY & MAC-ISA ANNUAL MEETING**

Virginia Tech's Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HRAREC) and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture (MAC-ISA) will hold special annual field day on Oct 2nd. While this combined field day has a special urban forestry orientation to it, there will also be sessions for those employed in the nursery production, landscape installation and management, and turf care portions of the green industry. By attending all three educational sessions, ISA certified arborists and VNLA certified professional horticulturists can earn 6 CEUs.

At the end of the field day, two short optional tours are planned - one on the grounds of HRAREC and one at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

This is a commercial, not a consumer or homeowner field day.

MAC-ISA annual meeting continues on Oct 3-4 with general and educational sessions, exhibits show, and awards. Click here for [Field Day Brochure](#) and Registration Form for the MAC ISA meeting; including the HRAREC combined Field Day.

<http://www.vaes.org.vt.edu/HRAREC/2006MACISA.pdf>



The Norfolk Botanical Garden's World of Wonders Children's Adventure Garden opens Sep 2nd. This three-acre garden, located in the heart of

Norfolk Botanical Garden, is dedicated to families and children. WOW brings the world of plants to our back door, literally creating a museum without walls. This garden is guided by the philosophy that children will thrive and learn in their very own space dedicated to them. The garden's goal is to encourage children to explore the connections between plants, international cultures and the environment, using their natural curiosity and playful instincts. To do this, WOW will have several distinct areas, each offering different interactive lessons, but all offering excitement, enrichment, and entertainment. If you are interested in sponsoring or assisting with this program, contact NBG at 757-441-5830, ext 319.

www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/events/wow.shtml

FASHION IN BLOOM -- COLLECTION 2007

September 20-22, promises to be another opportunity for the industry to see the best in new plants, products, and marketing innovations. The event will be held at the same six locations as last year (four in VA); two bus tours are available this year, as well as the opportunity to travel on your own. For more information about the event and each host site, visit www.fashioninbloom.com.



Sandra's Green Ice

SANDRA McDONALD AWARDED GOLD MEDAL!

The American Rhododendron Society has presented its highest award to Sandra McDonald of Hampton Virginia.

The citation read: *"For thirty years, you have shared your expert knowledge and many talents with the American Rhododendron Society. You have served two terms on the ARS Board. You have assisted with the ARS Journal for 26 years as technical reviewer and Editorial Committee Chair and have written 16 articles for the Journal. You have developed the ARS Archives at the University of Virginia as a major source of rhododendron information used by researchers worldwide.*

From your own hybridizing and seed from others, you have grown, selected, and registered 30 azaleas and rhododendrons. Choice plants donated by you now grace three public gardens." www.rhododendron.org/awards.htm

HITCHHIKERS BUG NATIONAL PARKS

The National Park Service is taking steps to thwart the introduction of exotic insect pests that sneak into the parks and campgrounds on firewood. The potential invaders are the emerald ash borer and Asian long horned beetle. Management of trees infected with these pests involves drastic measures - complete removal of all trees (infested and otherwise) in the immediate and surrounding areas. Firewood from the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey and New York cannot be brought into the national parks.

www.nps.gov/grsm/gsm/site/firewood.pdf

WHAT GUIDES FLIGHT OF MIGRATORY BIRDS?

Songbirds use multiple sources of directional cues to guide their seasonal migrations, including the sun, star patterns, the earth's magnetic field, and sky polarized light patterns. To avoid navigational errors as cue availability changes with time of day and weather conditions, however, these "compass" systems must be calibrated to a common reference. Experiments over the last 30 years failed to resolve the fundamental question of how migratory birds integrate multiple sources of directional information into a coherent navigational system. Now VA Tech's Rachel Muhein has demonstrated that the birds calibrate their magnetic compass based on polarized light patterns at sunset and sunrise, providing a reference that is independent of time of year and latitude. The birds then use this geographic reference to calibrate their other compass systems.

www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2006&itemno=420

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FEATURE ARTICLES

WHY DO THE LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?

All the complicated reasons why leaves change color are not completely understood. It involves sunlight, moisture, temperature, length of day, chemicals, and hormones. The trees leaves play their version of "hide-N-seek". A green leaf is green because of the presence of a group of pigments known as chlorophyll. In the growing season of summer the chlorophylls are active. They capture the sun's energy and, using water and carbon dioxide, produce simple sugars. These simple sugars are the tree's food.

During the summer, the chlorophylls are in constant productivity, continually breaking down, and being used up. During this growing season, however, the plant replenishes the chlorophyll so the leaves stay green. As autumn approaches, the production of chlorophyll slows. Weather plays a role in signaling this change. The green begins to fade as the masking effect disappears. The leaves begin to lose "hide-N-seek game."

Other colors which have been in the leaf all along begin show through. The pigments which give us yellow, brown, and orange are called carotenoids. The reds and purples are called anthocyanins. The anthocyanins are not present throughout the growing season as are the carotenoids. They develop in late summer in the sap of the cells of the leaf. The production of the anthocyanins pigments is partly due to phosphates and other chemicals and nutrients moving out of the leaf and into the stem of the plant. The brighter the light during this critical period, the greater the production of these pigments and the more brilliant color displays you see.

Watch Virginia's woodland for changing leaf colors. What do you see?

Different species of trees change color as the season advances. You begin to see the first signal of leaf change in the fall with spots of red in the forest in early September. These are the black gums changing color. They are followed quickly by the black walnut (yellow) and the dogwood (red). Soon the hickory begins to change to a deep yellow;. By mid-October there is a rush of color which some refer to as the "peak season." There are the brilliant oranges and reds of the sugar maples, red and yellow hues of the red maple, ginkgo's sudden yellow, and ranges of colors of the oaks and other species. Finally, toward the end of the season the last show of color is provided by the yellow poplar. By early November the forest is generally shades of browns and bronzes with remaining color spots here and there. When the first winter storm takes the leaves to the forest floor, the leaves of the American beech and pin oak will hang on, and provide a contrast of gray and light brown in the mature forest. Spring will then be only months away. The yellow poplar, the last to turn yellow in the fall, will provide the first tinge of green in the early spring.

www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/faq-leaf-color.shtml

WHAT IS CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING?



*Restoring our natural
heritage...protecting our watersheds*

Residential and commercial conservation landscaping techniques use native and beneficial plants to create diverse landscapes; reduce lawn area; reduce supplemental watering; and reduce the amount of storm water flowing off of a property into local waterways.

These techniques support a more beautiful, healthier human environment by:

- Reducing the amount of pollution entering the environment.
- Displaying the beauty of well maintained, natural landscaping.

They support wildlife by:

- Providing the diversity of plants needed to support native animals and healthy ecological communities.
- Creating islands of habitat or creating contiguous habitats.

They support clean air and water by:

- Using plants that are adapted to the local conditions that require less fertilizer and pesticides.
- Trapping localized storm water on site with rain barrels and rain gardens to insure slow percolation and increased filtration of nutrients entering the ground water.
- Reducing the amount of smog released into the air and the amount of atmospheric deposition of nutrients into our water by reducing the amount of mowable lawn.

Learn more about conservation-based gardening and landscaping practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by attending The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's conference on sustainable landscaping, *Turning a New Leaf*, on Nov 3 at Bethesda, MD. CEU credits have been applied for. For more info: www.chesapeakelandscape.org/2006leaf.htm